

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail processing method comprising:
 - sending, from a mail server for performing a mail delivery process to mail clients, mail attribute information indicating an attribute of an e-mail for the mail client in a data format, the data format enabling said mail client to display the mail attribute information by executing a document browsing program;
 - receiving, in the mail client, the mail attribute information transmitted from the mail server, and displaying the received mail attribute information in accordance with the document browsing program;
 - accepting, in the mail client, an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to the displayed mail attribute information;
 - sending from the mail client to the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by the user;
 - receiving in the mail server, the identification information transmitted from the mail client
 - generating by the mail server at least one predetermined character string, the at least one predetermined character string being separate from the e-mail selected by the user and indicative of a command to the mail client to activate the e-mail processing program and store the e-mail transmitted by the mail server in a nonvolatile memory;

sending to the mail client a communication that includes a header comprising a field name and a field value and the at least one predetermined character string, wherein the at least one predetermined character string comprises a first value for the field name and a second value for the field value, the at least one predetermined character string for commanding the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending the e-mail specified by the identification information; and

in response to receiving the at least one predetermined character string transmitted from the mail server, automatically activating the e-mail processing program and storing by the mail client in the nonvolatile memory the e-mail transmitted from the mail server, the nonvolatile memory being included in the mail client.

2. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivery method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, in the mail client, an instruction to suspend delivery from the mail server of an e-mail selected from among the displayed e-mails, and sending from the mail client identification information for specifying the selected e-mail to the mail server;

wherein the mail server receives identification information transmitted from the mail client, and in the next mail attribute sending step, sends mail attribute

information of an e-mail whose delivery is to be suspended, the e-mail being specified by the identification information.

3. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and
the predetermined character strings are written in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and
the mail client, in the step of sending identification information, sends to the mail server identification information for specifying the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

5. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and

when the mail server sends to the mail client the predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by the identification information, the mail client requests the mail server to transmit the e-mail by transmitting a request to the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 5,

wherein when sending the e-mail to the mail client, the mail server writes in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted this time, and identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted subsequently and transmits them to the mail client; and

the mail client writes in a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order, the two pieces of identification information written in a header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and requests the mail server to send the e-mail to be subsequently transmitted by transmitting a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol to the mail server; and the mail server identifies an e-mail to be sent on the basis of the predetermined order of the two pieces of identification information in a request header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and sends the specified e-mail to the mail client.

7. (Currently Amended) A mail server for performing a mail delivering process to a mail client, the mail server comprising:

an attribute information sending unit configured to send to the mail client mail attribute information in a displayable data format enabling the mail client to indicate the e-mail attribute information in accordance with a document browsing program, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for the mail client;

an identification information reception unit configured to receive identification information of an e-mail transmitted from the mail client;

a character string generating unit configured to generate at least one predetermined character string, the at least one predetermined character string being separate from the e-mail selected by the user; and

a character string sending unit configured to send to the mail client, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information, a communication that includes a header comprising a field name and a field value and the at least one predetermined character string, wherein the at least one predetermined character string comprises a first value for the field name and a second value for the field value, the at least one predetermined character string for commanding the mail client to automatically activate an e-mail processing program and store in a nonvolatile memory the e-mail selected by the user.

8. (Previously Presented) A mail server according to Claim 7,

wherein the mail server is configured to send and receive data with the mail client in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and
the character string sending unit is configured to send the predetermined character strings to the mail client by writing the predetermined character strings in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

9. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1, wherein automatically activating the e-mail processing program comprises:
determining whether the e-mail processing program is activated; and
activating the e-mail processing program if it is determined that the e-mail processing program is not activated.

13. (Currently Amended) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1, wherein sending to the mail client the communication that includes the header comprising a field name and a field value and the at least one predetermined character string comprises:

sending a first communication from the mail server to the mail client acknowledging receipt of the identification information transmitted from the mail client, the first communication comprising the at least one predetermined character string; and

sending a second communication from the mail server to the mail client containing the e-mail specified by the identification information, the second communication comprising the at least one predetermined character string.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A mail server according to Claim 7, wherein sending to the mail client the communication that includes the header comprising a field name and a field value and the at least one predetermined character string comprises:

sending a first communication from the mail server to the mail client acknowledging receipt of the identification information transmitted from the mail client, the first communication comprising the at least one predetermined character string; and

sending a second communication from the mail server to the mail client containing the e-mail specified by the identification information, the second communication comprising the at least one predetermined character string.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

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19. (Canceled)